

October 17, 2003

Preliminary Amendment

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, after the title and before line 1, add the following new paragraph:

This application is a divisional of U.S. Ser. No. 10/138,651, filed May 6, 2002; 10/138,651 is a divisional of 09/620,989, filed July 20, 2000; 09/620,989 is a divisional of 09/044,254, filed March 19, 1998; 09/044,254 is a divisional of 08/674,844, filed July 3, 1996.

Page 10, after line 14, add the following new paragraph:

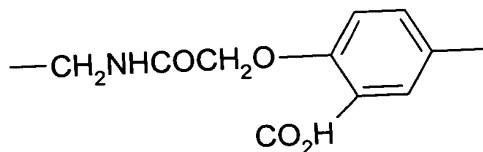
Brief Description of the Drawing

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Figure 1 is a graph of the measured blood concentrations of Gd (compound 1) and Dy (compound 2) in rats (n=5) with ligated renal vessels, as described in the above Example for an In Vivo Comparison with an Extracellular Contrast Medium. --

Page 19, amend the paragraph starting at line 20 and ending at page 20, line 6 to read as follows:

As examples for U⁶, the following groups can be cited:

-CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂-, -C₆H₄-, -C₆H₁₀-, -CH₂-C₆H₅-, -CH₂-C₆H₄-,
-CH₂NHCOCH₂CH(CH₂CO₂H)-C₆H₄-,
-CH₂NHCOCH₂OCH₂-,
-CH₂NHCOCH₂C₆H₄-,



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Page 3

Page 84, please delete in its entirety.

Page 85, renumber as page 84.

Page 85, amend the paragraph at lines 7 to 16, to read as follows:

In the a precontrast picture (see photo) only one to two major vessels are visible (e.g., abdominal aorta) in relatively poor contrast (signal intensity SI of these vessels against the background). After i.v. administration of 50 μ mol of Gd/kg of body weight of the compound described in Example 1k, a marked increase in contrast (SI of the vessels/SI of the background) and a wide variety of minor blood vessels and capillaries (e.g., A. and V. femoralis, A. and V. mesenterica caudalis, A. and V. renalis, A. and V. subrenalis, etc.), which could not be detected before the administration of contrast medium, are visible.

Page 85, after line 16: Please delete the figure/photo.

Page 86, renumber as page 85.

Page 86-A, renumber as page 86.